



Division of Public Health Services

*Office of the Assistant Director
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JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR
JANUARY CONTRERAS, ACTING DIRECTOR

October 28, 2008

Dear Public Vaccine Provider,

The Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) provides vaccines to over 850 public and private providers in Arizona. State vaccine funds are used to purchase vaccines for “underinsured” children not covered by private insurance, KidsCare, or the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

The state budget crisis has affected many health programs, including the state vaccine budget. Due to budget cuts, state vaccine funds for the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 have been reduced from \$10.4 million to \$6.1 million. In the past, these state vaccine funds have allowed AIPO to fund required and recommended vaccines which were not supported by a federal vaccine program, public insurance like KidsCare, or private insurance. A reduction of \$4.3 million requires a change in which vaccines AIPO is able to make available to providers.

New Program effective January 1, 2009:

1) AIPO will continue to purchase and supply the 850+ VFC participating providers with vaccines for children (birth through 18 years of age) that are required for child care or school attendance. These “required” vaccines are DTaP, Tdap, Td, polio, MMR, Hib, meningococcal, varicella (dose 1 only), hepatitis B, and hepatitis A (only for Maricopa County) and combinations containing these vaccines. The eligibility criteria are:

- KidsCare eligible children
- Medicaid eligible children
- Uninsured children
- Native American/Alaskan Native children
- *Underinsured* children (i.e. health insurance does not provide coverage for immunizations)

2) AIPO will no longer be able to purchase the recommended vaccines for “underinsured” children \leq 18 years of age seen at public or private clinics, unless the clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Recommended vaccines include pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7), pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23), rotavirus vaccines, varicella (dose 2), human papilloma vaccine (HPV), and hepatitis A vaccine (for counties other than Maricopa). AIPO will continue to provide recommended vaccines to children who fit the following criteria:

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- KidsCare eligible children
- Medicaid eligible children
- Uninsured children
- Native American/Alaskan Native children
- *Underinsured* children seen at a FQHC

3) FQHCs will continue to receive both required and recommended vaccines from AIPO for “underinsured” children by using federal vaccine funds. Most Community Health Centers in Arizona are a FQHC. In addition, some County Health Departments have been “deputized” as an FQHC, allowing them to use federal vaccine funds versus state vaccine funds. The county health departments currently deputized as a FQHC are Maricopa, Pima, Yavapai, Santa Cruz, Graham, Greenlee, and Yuma.

4) Influenza vaccine is a recommended vaccine that will still be provided to underinsured children. AIPO will continue to provide influenza vaccine for the groups listed below for the 2008-2009 influenza season:

- KidsCare eligible children
- Medicaid eligible children
- Uninsured children
- Native American/Alaskan Native children
- *Underinsured* children (i.e. health insurance does not provide coverage for influenza vaccine)

5) County Health Departments, school based clinics, Phoenix and Mesa Fire Departments, and other public clinics will need to refer insured children to their medical home for the recommended vaccines. Public clinics will continue to vaccinate insured children for the “required” vaccines needed to enter child care or school.

6) It is more important then ever, to encourage all county health departments to be deputized as an FQHC. As of October 20th, 7 of the 15 county health departments were deputized to administer federal VFC vaccine to the underinsured children. Approximately \$1 million or more can be saved from the state vaccine funds which can be used to purchase some or all of the “recommended” vaccines in these tough financial times. Chris Lyons will be contacting each county health department to facilitate this process. We have attached templates of the “deputization” agreements for your review. We encourage you to enter into dialog with the Community Health Center in your county or region and explore this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Kathy Fredrickson, MS, MPH, Office Chief
Arizona Immunization Program Office


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Enclosures


Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) Guidance to Providers

Vaccines required for child care or school attendance							
Vaccines	Eligibility categories of children <u>< 18 years of age</u>						
	KidsCare	Medicaid eligible	Native American	Uninsured	Underinsured at a FQHC	Underinsured at a non FQHC	Privately Insured
All DTaP containing vaccines							
All Polio containing vaccines							
All MMR containing vaccines							
All Hib containing vaccines							
All Hepatitis B containing vaccines							
Tdap or Td vaccines							
Meningococcal vaccines							
All Hepatitis A Containing vaccines *						*See Note below	*See Note below
All Varicella containing vaccines*						*See Note below	*See Note below

Vaccines recommended (but not required) for child care or school attendance							
Vaccines	Children's Eligibility categories						
	KidsCare	Medicaid eligible	Native American	Uninsured	Underinsured at a FQHC	Underinsured at a non FQHC	Privately Insured
Influenza vaccines							
Hepatitis A vaccine (all counties except Maricopa county)							
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV7)							
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine (PPV 23)							
Rotavirus vaccines							
Human Papilloma Vaccines (HPV)							

 Yes, continue to administer this vaccine and to the indicated eligibility category. Vaccine will be supplied by AIPO/VFC program.

 Yes, this vaccine will continue to be supplied during the 2008-2009 influenza vaccination season. This vaccine was purchased in May.

 No longer can provide these vaccines

 No longer can provide these vaccines for underinsured at a non-FQHC facility

* **Hepatitis A vaccine** is only required of children attending child care facilities in Maricopa County; therefore, limited to Maricopa County providers only

* **Varicella vaccine** – dose #1 is required for child care and school attendance in K through 4th grade and 7th through 10th grades. Varicella is not required in the 2008-2009 school year for, 5th, 6th, 11th, and 12th grades. Dose #2 is not required, except if the child received dose #1 after 12 years of age, then dose #2 is required.